

Happy 'Eid Al Adha

The JORDAN TIMES will not be published on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, May 22, 23, and 24 because of the Eid Al Adha holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Wednesday May 25. The Jordan Times wishes its readers a very happy 'Eid Al Adha feast.

ST PETERSBURG,
Prince Charles, has
an international
historic St Petersburg
economic misery and
decay. On the second
ground-breaking home
of the tsars", the prince
privations of people
and appealed to the
help. The prince, the
ranking British royal
since the 17th
Russia, was invited to
burg by Mayor Alaa
char to publicise the
city struggling to go
economic dislocation
crime. In the meeting
of Tuesday's press
the royal guest found
biggest casualty loss
learned the chronic
Russian healthcare
starved of cash and
most basic modern
In the twilight zone of
economics, taxi drivers
prostitutes demands
currency payment
than surgeons, whose
monthly wage is the
of \$60. Prince Charles
European and U.S.
to explore ways of doing
but still useable
Russian medical care
seeing the rusty and
other antiquated items
used in operations.
"Seeing is believing,"
as he toured St Petersburg.
Marinckson Casualty
To Western eyes, the
theatres seem to be
from a period when
play from medical
"Until you come here
difficult to tell what
particular problems are."

Russian buys
Stalin victim's
Faberge egg

GENEVA (R) — A
art collector paid one
million Swiss francs for
an enameled Easter
egg by royal jeweler
Fabergé for a Nazi
industrialist who died
in a communist camp. At
Christie's pre-war
antiques, another bought
a second Fabergé
made for an oil magnate
from a period when
the Green Naples
Blossom — was one
created by Fabergé at
the Russian mining
entrepreneur A. K. Kelch as a present for
Barbara. The short
haired buyer at Tase
clearly knew of
other Russian-speaking
desires present at
his private collection
longer live in Russia.
when asked if he was
back there, he commented further, I
comment further, I
paced auction at Hotel Richemont, left
two other Russian
egg for 1.1 million
francs (\$1.4465) per
mission. People in it
including rival bidders
into applause when
ctioneer's hammer came
The price was among the
highest ever paid for a Fabergé
egg for a clear-cut
the Russian royal family
whom the famous
was made at least 50 years
between 1885 and 1900.

Guerrillas wanted
by Israel join
police

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Thirty
men who fought in the clandestine
ranks of the armed wing of
Fatah against Israel have joined the new Palestinian
police force, a PLO official
told AFP on Friday. Another
40 "Hawks" from the main-
stream PLO group have applied
to become policemen since the May 4 agreement to
lend autonomy to the Gaza
Strip and the West Bank town
of Jericho, said the official. All
took part in the armed struggle
and were listed as wanted by
the Israeli army until self-rule
started. "This is what I wanted to
do," said Ahmad Abu Zayad, who received his blue
uniform and regulation issue
Kalashnikov rifle earlier this
week.

Pakistan
opposition alleges
secret deal with
U.S.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's opposition Friday
accused the government of entering into a secret deal with the United States to open the country's nuclear facilities to inspection. The opposition
attack came after Foreign Minister Assef Ahmed Ali said Wednesday that Islamabad
was ready to consider proposals from the United States on "non-intrusive" means to verify that Pakistan was not producing nuclear weapons. The leader of the opposition
Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister, said "to agree to non-intrusive verification means inspection which is worse than a roll back." The foreign minister's statement coincided with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari's departure on a private visit to the United States to meet with U.S. officials.

Jordan Times

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جريدة تأثير يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية (الرأي)

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AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1994, THU AL HIJEH 10, 1414

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King receives congratulatory cables

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received congratulatory cables from Arab and foreign heads of state on the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice). The cables came from King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Algerian President Ali Annan Zeroual, Qatari leader Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The King also received a congratulatory cable from U.S. President Bill Clinton, who wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress. Cables also came from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, President Said Mohammad Djohar of the Comoros, President Mamoud Abdul Qayoum of the Maldives and President Brig. Gen. Lansana Conte of Guinea. Prime Minister Abdal Salam Al Majali, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and senior civil and military officials also sent congratulatory cables to the King.

King returns home after talks with Assad on peace process, bilateral ties

Two leaders stress need for coordination

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday returned home from Damascus after paying a short visit to Syria during which he held talks with President Hafez Al Assad.

King Hussein and Mr. Assad had a meeting, which was attended by senior Jordanian and Syrian officials before having a closed-door meeting, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

His Majesty and the Syrian President reviewed the situation in the region and the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. Mr. Assad briefed the King on the outcome of his recent talks with American Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Izetbegovic arrived in Mecca with 360 Bosnian pilgrims some of whom were wounded in the war in the former Yugoslav republic. Out of the two million pilgrims, 995,116 were from abroad.

Syria said the Israeli ideas were not enough to break the stalemate because they did not include an Israeli pledge for full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967. Israel wants to have normal ties with Damascus before revealing the extent of withdrawal.

The Jordanian and the Sy-

rian sides stressed the importance of coordination between the two countries and the need to define the requirements of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions.

Syrian officials stressed the importance of coordination among the parties involved in the peace talks with Israel.

"Coordination among the Arab parties is important because it will strengthen the Arab position at the negotiations and prevent Israel from imposing the solutions it wants on them," one official was quoted as saying by Reuters news agency.

Syria will continue to work for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and refuse separate or partial deals like the Gaza-Jericho accord between the PLO and Israel which deprived Palestinians of their rights," he said.

The two sides also agreed to boost and bolster bilateral relations in various fields.

The situation in strife-torn Yemen was also under focus



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad greets His Majesty King Hussein upon his arrival in Damascus

in the talks, with the two leaders stressing their keen interest in preserving Yemen's unity and protecting its achievements.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's advisor on political affairs Marwan Al Qassem.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Vice-President Abdul Haleem Khaddam and Mohammad Zubair Masharqa, Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa and Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Wabib Fadel.

King Hussein was received at Amman Airport upon his return by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of the King, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Chief Chamberlain

Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, the King's advisors, Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nuwaar, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mar'i Al Kaabi and other senior officials.

At Damascus Airport, King Hussein was seen off by Mr. Assad, Mr. Khaddam, Dr. Masharqa, Mr. Zu'bi, Mr. Sharaa and other senior officials.

(Continued on page 3)

Saleh rejects ceasefire appeal as forces move closer to Aden

AL ANAD, Yemen (Agencies) — Northern Yemeni forces Friday appeared to have won control of part of Al Anad military base as they tightened their grip around the southern stronghold of Aden.

Heavy shelling prevented journalists from getting closer than three kilometres south of Al Anad but southern Yemeni forces were retreating at that point.

In spite of the apparent retreat, southern officers at the front said southern units still controlled the air strip and buildings in the southwest part of Al Anad base.

They said infantry were fighting northern forces loyal to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and around the base, and more soldiers were seen heading northwards as reinforcements.

Southern warplanes Friday pounded rival positions north of Al Anad, showing the air force was active despite an overnight attack on the Aden civilian and military airport, which has been closed to commercial traffic since the start of the war.

Mr. Saleh launched an offensive on May 4 to crush his estranged vice-president, Ali Salem Al Beidi, who is based in the port city.

In the fighting on Friday

the true face of this murderer who has plunged our nation into a destructive war," the north charged.

"He has abandoned his men without a worry in the world over their fate to carry his plan for separation."

Life had returned to normal Friday, with people buying goats and sheep for the Adha Feast.

It was not clear if the attack meant the northern forces had come within artillery range of the city, but rockets can fire from more than 40 km away.

Sanaa radio, said on Thursday night northern forces were advancing from Al Anad southwards towards the town of Al Hudaydah, which lies about halfway to Aden. It said they had captured 62 T-55 tanks on the road between Al Anad and Al Hudaydah and shot down one plane over Al Anad.

This could not be independently confirmed.

On Friday, Sanaa radio, anticipating victory, pledged that residents of Aden would not be harmed.

Likewise, misled soldiers and officers should know they will receive much appreciation and respect once they join the

charge D'affaires at Yemen's embassy in Beirut, Abdallah Mouthana, told reporters there that in the "ferocious missile bombardment" of Aden many civilians were killed. But an officer in the city told Reuters there were no casualties.

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Arafat ponders entry point to self-rule area

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Now that it is near certain that Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat is going to enter the self-rule area some time in June, the question is which area is Mr. Arafat going to choose as his entry point, Jericho or Gaza.

While entering in June signifies the elapse of 27 years of the June war of 1967, Mr. Arafat's entry point will also have its own significance.

Those who want Mr. Arafat to enter through Jericho want a parallel with the Jewish biblical story of Jericho crumbling under Jewish "stones." They see Jericho as the gathering point for the march to Jerusalem and the

rest of the West Bank.

Those who advocate Gaza for entry cite the Egyptian connection and expect a tumultuous reception of the chairman and his entourage.

According to a senior PLO official, Gaza "will be Arafat's opportunity to give Egypt a grand salute by entering through Gaza." Gaza, unlike Jericho, the official said "will give Arafat a huge welcome."

Observers and analysts believe that through entering Gaza first Mr. Arafat will want to acknowledge the importance he attaches to the autonomy rule succeeding in Gaza where opposition to the peace negotiations is more visible than in the West Bank.

Security officials such as

Jabril Rajoub, who returned to Gaza earlier this week as head of security, are laying the groundwork for Mr. Arafat's return. Palestinian officials in Amman said.

Ideally, Chairman Arafat would like to return to Gaza and Jericho on June 5 to mark the beginning of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and to symbolise the end of 27 years.

But PLO officials who returned from meetings with the PLO chairman in Tunis, told the Jordan Times that Mr. Arafat "may still return to Gaza and Jericho before June 6."

"It depends on many things but basically if possible he would like to enter Gaza and Jericho as soon as possible," said the official who asked to remain anonymous.

"We don't want the chairman's return to coincide with any other major international event," said a senior member

(Continued on page 3)

Djerejian quits Israel post

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Edward Djerejian, after only six months in one of U.S. diplomacy's premier overseas posts as ambassador to Israel, is leaving to become director of a university police institute associated with former secretary of state James Baker.

The announcement Thursday in a written statement by Rice University President Malcolm Gillis, took many U.S. and Israeli diplomats by surprise, although sources said Mr. Djerejian informed Secretary of State Warren Christopher and also Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Djerejian was in Jerusalem during Mr. Christopher's Israel-Syria peace shuttle that ended Thursday. He was expected in Houston, Texas at Rice University for a formal public announcement of his appointment Friday, university sources said.

A state department official confirmed that Mr. Djerejian submitted his resignation letter, effective August 1, and

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 3)

Self-rule in 'jeopardy' after killing of 2 soldiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Islamic fundamentalists gunned down two Israeli sergeants on the Strip until May 29, preventing Palestinians from leaving the area.

"The army considers that it is the role of the Palestinian police to prevent armed men from reaching Israeli checkpoints," an army spokesman said. "The closure is intended to allow the Palestinian police to organise themselves to halt further attacks."

Three men in a car raked a roadblock with automatic weapons fire near the northern edge of Gaza. They fled into the autonomous Palestinian zone.

A third soldier shot back at the car, but the army did not give hot pursuit, the officials said. And two Israelis driving a garbage truck were lightly wounded when Palestinians fired from a passing car near Morag settlement, in southern Gaza. They also fled into the self-rule area, military officials said.

The Palestinian police has only been deployed for a few days and is having difficulties getting organised to stop terrorist infiltrations in areas of the Gaza Strip which are under our control," the said.

Israeli leaders issued a severe warning that self-rule would be over unless the PLO prevented murderous

(Continued on page 3)

N. Korea told talk can solve nuclear dispute

SEOUL (R) — South Korea ordered North Korea on Friday to stop removing spent fuel from a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, saying there was still time for the north to end the crisis through diplomatic means.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Thursday North Korea had begun removing fuel rods from the reactor without IAEA supervision, despite threats of U.N. economic sanctions if it did so.

The world nuclear watchdog body said the removal was a serious violation of its safety agreement and sent a telex to Pyongyang saying it was reporting the north to the U.N. Security Council.

"The government notes the IAEA's announcement that it is still possible for North Korea to implement required safety measures as long as it refrains from continuing the refuelling," South Korean Foreign Ministry Spokesman Chang Ki-Ho said in statement.

Mr. Chang expressed regret and concerns over the Stalinist state's move to begin refuelling the reactor at Yongbyon, 100 km (60 miles) from Pyongyang, and added:

"We urge North Korea to undertake its safeguards duty

(Continued on page 5)

Upon the Occasion of
EID AL -ADHA

Iraqi Kurdish factions battle in northern Iraq

SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R) — Rival Kurdish guerrilla factions battled for two towns in northern Iraq, forcing buffer forces to withdraw and bashing efforts to halt the 19-day-old conflict, officials from both sides said.

Units of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC), which has tried to separate the combatants, had to pull out of several strong points they had occupied around Khoi Sanjak and Shaquewa under earlier peace pacts, INC officials said.

The latest battles between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, have closed roads between the capital Irbil and the cities of Duhuk and Sulaimaniyah.

The two Kurdish groups jointly rule on area of northern Iraq which has been protected from the government in Baghdad by Western air power since President Saddam Hussein crushed a Kurdish revolt by the end of the 1991 Gulf War. The INC is an anti-Saddam alliance to which both Kurdish groups belong.

A senior U.N. official said 15 to 20 foreign aid workers and U.N. guards were trapped inside Shaqlawa as KDP forces sought to dislodge their PUK foes from surrounding heights.

The foreigners, contacted by radio, said they were safe for the moment because fighting had not spread to the town itself.

KDP Peshmerga guerrillas on the road a few kilometres from Shaqlawa were firing deafening rounds from a 106-mm recoilless rifle at PUK positions in the hills in the late afternoon.

They said PUK fighters were effectively surrounded in Shaqlawa, but were still resisting.

"We are not shooting at the town," one KDP man said. "We don't want to enter it or endanger civilians or shed any blood. We want a peaceful solution."

But there was no immediate let-up in the fighting. Small arms fire cracked in the distance, along with the heavier thud of anti-aircraft guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

Thursday's clashes began just hours after the end of a late-night meeting at INC headquarters in Salahuddin at which the feuding factions agreed to issue a new ceasefire call.

KDP leader Massoud Barzani accepted a request from the PUK to make a televised peace appeal Thursday, but he changed his mind after the new fighting erupted, KDP officials said.

The two sides have so far successfully sought to prevent fighting in the capital Irbil, but PUK fighters have taken control of the parliament and other government buildings there.

Fighting has also flared again between the PUK and the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, especially around the town of Halabja on the Iranian and Irbil, in the last few days.

The PUK which launched a big assault on the Muslim militia in December, says Iranian Revolutionary Guards are fighting alongside the Islamic forces, the KDP denies this claim.

Mr. Clarry told Reuters that recent fighting near the Iranian border had caused panic among civilians who had been settled near Sari Sadig after losing their homes in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk during the failed Kurdish uprising of 1991.

He said about 1,000 families were reported to have left the Shanandary Camp and were heading towards Sulaimaniyah. "People are pitching tents near Arbat just outside the city," he said.

Armed conflict between supporters of your administration can be expected to negatively affect international support to the region," Stafford Clarry, head of the UN's Iraq Relief Coordination Unit based in Irbil, wrote to the Iraqi Kurdish regional government in which the KDP and PUK share power.

KUWAIT — Kuwait looks set to mend relations with some of the Arab states which sympathised with Iraq during its 1990-91 occupation of the emirate.

"Kuwait well knows that it is better for it to have these countries on its side rather than let them support Iraq's attempts to lift U.N. sanctions," said an Arab diplomat. "It is a matter of logic and interests, not of sentiment," he added. "In today's world not many can afford to say X country is my enemy." One can only say "there is a conflict of interest with X," he added.

Iraq's seven-month occupation of its oil-rich neighbour caused deep division between Arab states which supported or sympathised with Baghdad and those who opposed it.

The emir's ties with Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mauritania, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Tunisia have been chilly ever since due to their sympathy with Iraq.

Moves to reconcile Kuwait with some of its former Arab friends have coincided with an Iraqi diplomatic campaign aimed at gaining international support for an end to U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Many Kuwaitis still find normalisation with Iraq's friends

difficult to swallow. But many commentators say that that should not be a reason to stop making efforts at reconciliation.

"There is a bitter taste in the mouth. Jordan and the Palestinians should go out and say frankly 'we have erred,'" said Saif Abbas Abdulla, who chairs Kuwait University's Political Science Department.

But he added: "Through dialogue with my students I realised a difference as the time passed... Time and debate succeeded in bringing points of view closer."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kuwait has long prided itself on strong friendship with many Arab, African and Asian states and has provided generous amounts of aid to help many Third World economies develop.

Kuwaitis were consequently furious during the occupation when they learned that some Arab states which had received copious amounts of their largesse had sided with their enemy.

Reconciliation was once seen as a remote possibility upon its introduction for debate in parliament and through opinion polls and newspaper commentaries.

A visit by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia last year raised howls of protest in newspapers and letter columns.

Many Kuwaitis still find normalisation with Iraq's friends

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifieh, Tel. 610740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785 St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440 De Salle Church Tel. 661757 Transcendent Church Tel. 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and dusty with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 20 / 33

Ammman 22 / 28

Desert 16 / 36

Jordan Valley 22 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35. Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

Dr. Khalil Abu Hassiba 985000 Khalilifpharmacy 985417

Electric Power

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Established 1975

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Director General:
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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,

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Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 696183

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Holiday, with room for thought

IT IS once again the holiday season when thousands of Jordanians travel abroad or visit national touristic sites to celebrate and enjoy Eid Al Adha. Travel agents report that practically all outgoing flights are fully booked with some of them even overbooked by 60 per cent. This mass travel has, of course, pluses and minuses attached to it.

On the positive side, travel to foreign lands gives Jordanians opportunities to see and experience foreign cultures, and as such it is an educating process. Besides, our national carrier, Royal Jordanian, and the transport sector generally, benefit from the extra business, bringing into the country added revenues, both direct and indirect. On top of that, airport and border departure fees help reduce our budget deficit.

On the negative side, travelling abroad deprives local touristic facilities of additional incomes and profits. In this vein, Aqaba stands out as the most competitive touristic area in the country where Jordanians could have been spending their holidays instead of flying out of the country. Yet a closer look at Aqaba and its touristic and hotel facilities would reveal that they are to blame for lost businesses.

To begin with, the cost price in Aqaba is not competitive when all things are considered. Jordanians have long discovered that it could be cheaper to fly to far away places and stay at five star hotels at prices that are equal or even cheaper than what is being offered at Aqaba beach hotels. The problem here is that Aqaba hotels try to make their money in a few months of the year when the weather conditions are most favourable instead of developing a touristic policy that would allow them to make business all year around.

Part of the problem is also the limited coastline in Aqaba, measuring no more than one kilometre. When thousands of Jordanians flock south to swim and enjoy the sun, the beaches become overcrowded. It is unfortunate that till this time all the southern beach area is still undeveloped in spite of the fact that we all have been saying for decades that Aqaba is our prime touristic area.

At a time when beaches on the Egyptian side of the Sinai Peninsula are thriving and Israel is busy developing a fully integrated touristic area in Eilat and its environs, Aqaba cannot afford to lose its touristic potential. Private investors can develop that potential, but only after our authorities make up their mind on what exactly they want Aqaba to be: A real touristic attraction or just a seaport, or both. If the latter is the final choice, as indeed it has been, well, the government should at least delineate where new beaches for development can begin and end.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Amman reconciliation agreement between the northern and southern leaders of Yemen has been scrapped and buried beneath the rubble of the ongoing conflict, Jordan has to adopt a very clear position with regard to the war in that Arab country, said Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra's. It is true that the Kingdom, which brought together the leaders of both sides and concluded the peace that was designed to last, has played a neutral part in the conflict so far, but Amman must now come out in the open and declare that it recognises only one united Yemen, with its capital Sanaa, said the writer. We are for legitimacy and democracy and we should admit that Yemen has a single army while those in the south are trying to separate Aden from the motherland, said Fanek. The writer said that the Yemeni unity was achieved not through force but through dialogue and mutual agreement and that the separatists are trying to end the unity with the use of weapons. That, he said, must be stopped by all means. In his view, those Arabs trying to bring about reconciliation at this juncture are attempting to consecrate the split between Sanaa and Aden and are trying to ensure that the two Yemens remain separated. The writer said that Jordan should openly support Sanaa in its drive to perpetuate unity and its drive towards democracy.

SELDOM A day passes by without a report in the local press about authorities seizing quantities of food found unfit for human consumption, said Samir Naifeh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shabab daily. It is not enough for the concerned authorities to fine the violators of public health regulations, a wide-scale search campaign for bad food and its traders is required on regular basis so as to stem the tendency among the traders towards manipulations and cheating the public as well, said the writer. The Health Ministry is called on to strike with an iron fist at those merchants, bakers or restaurants who persist in their cheating and in manipulations, and to ensure that they are denied a licence for the business they have been abusing, demanded the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

Arms embargo on Bosnia should end soon

FOR THE first time since the eruption of war in former Yugoslavia two years ago, concrete moves are being taken to mobilise international public opinion and parliamentary support for an end to the arms embargo imposed against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The realisation that the embargo is denying the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina their legitimate right to self-defence against a war of genocide waged by expansionist Bosnian Serbs was on the centre-stage at a meeting held in Brussels in late April.

The International Conference of Parliamentarians (ICP) Against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, sponsored by the speaker of the European Parliament, brought together more than 200 parliament members, political party leaders and media personnel from 40 countries to discuss the injustice that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected to.

Particularly brought into focus during the conference was the unjust arms embargo against the victims of aggression by the Bosnian Serbs, to whom the ban against military supplies to former Yugoslavia does not matter much since they have allies in the region to keep their arsenal replenished.

The key resolution adopted by the conference was a pledge to exert effort on all levels to lift the embargo so that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina could defend themselves against the Bosnian Serb assault, which is supported by advocates of a greater Serbia and their allies.

The conference was indeed aware that lifting the embargo in itself was of not much help to the people, and thus the idea was incorporated that once the embargo is no longer in place, then friends of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina could extend military aid to help them fight an enemy far stronger in terms of weapons and manoeuvrability.

There is no doubt that certain European powers with vested

interests are extending support, moral and material, to the Bosnian Serbs to pursue their campaign of "ethnic cleansing" and expanding occupation to achieve the objective of a greater Serbia in the Balkans.

Representatives from the conference, his writer included, paid a visit to Rome seeking the weight of the Vatican, where they met with the de facto foreign minister of the Holy See and presented the case. The Holy See was indeed highly understanding of the cause of the International Conference of Parliamentarians Against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The practical translations of that understanding and appreciation will, hopefully, manifest soon.

A field visit to the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, was all that was needed to drive home the point among many conferees that unless something was done quickly and immediately the cause of Bosnians would be lost for ever.

Being a Muslim, I could not but come away convinced that by either ignoring the plight of the Bosnian Muslims or being apathetic to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Islamic countries have committed a grave mistake. History will not forgive them for not allowing an advance Muslim people, who have reached a level of an equilibrium between religious belief and the needs of the modern age, to bloom by helping them in their hour of need and preventing their elimination.

It is not late today. It was heartening for the Brussels conferees to note that a draft legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress that would effectively force the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. American lawmakers deserve high praise for the gesture, which will hopefully be picked and followed up by the Clinton administration.

But it is disturbing to take note of a intensification of a campaign by lobbyists to influence the U.S. Congress against

adopting the draft law. No doubt, those behind the campaign are trying to convince the lawmakers that a process of peace is under way in Bosnia-Herzegovina and it would be defeating the purpose to lift the arms embargo at this point in time.

No one would be more mistaken if anyone believes that argument. We have had more than enough experience with Serb procrastination and brinkmanship to realise that Serb gestures of accepting peace plans and proposals are only stalling tactics aimed at preempting forceful international action to dissuade them from continuing their deadly game in the Balkans.

The conference of parliamentarians and all those who would like to see an end to the injustices committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina were fortunate to have a dedicated Jordanian, Kamel Al Sharif, as chairman of the Brussels conference.

Since returning from the gathering, the conference chairman has sent appeals to all heads of governments, informing them of what had transpired in Brussels and urging them to appreciate the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and adopt action by their own governments to extend help.

Simultaneously, all participants in the Brussels conference have also been urged to adopt follow-up action in their respective countries to lobby their governments and raise public awareness of the realities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and realisation of who is the victim and who is the aggressor there.

Particular focus has also been given to the draft legislation in the U.S. Congress. Personal appeals have gone out to President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Albert Gore and leaders in the American legislative authority. Hopefully, the spirit in which the world's peace loving people call for a fair and just approach to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be heard and understood in the same wavelength it was sent.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Yemeni war a reflection of Arab weakness

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE WAR in Yemen continued to attract attention in the local press in the past week but solid prospects for peace in the Middle East, the autonomy rule in Jericho and Gaza as well as domestic affairs.

Sawt Al Shabab daily said that the northern and the southern leaders of Yemen are intent on carrying on the fighting, thus opening the door wide for foreign intervention, especially as the Arab League has failed to stop the war.

The paper said that this mad war continues to kill innocent people and devastate vital economic and social institutions in the poverty-stricken country.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh should not become prisoner of his own decisions, nor should Ali Salem Ab Beidh, head of the Aden-based Socialist Party, rest assured that his air force would have the upper hand. They, both should realise that they are sowing the seeds of hatred among their own people and destroying their country's economic institutions, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dastour.

The writer said that the leaders of the north and the south Yemen should opt for dialogue and should realise that there can be no victor in civil war.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra's said what was required by the Arab World is to find a way to end the fighting in Yemen, rather than endorsing the civil war that has cost the country its unity.

Oman and Jordan were alone in getting the northern and southern leaders together and ending the differences but unfortunately their efforts failed to acquire other parties' support, said the writer.

In fact, some Arabs opted for fuelling the strife and encouraging the bloodshed and some have encouraged one side against the other because they hated to see Yemen united and following the path of democracy, added Mr. Rimawi.

In the view of the Al Dastour daily, the war in Yemen represents the true image of the weak Arab order. This Arab order does not have the required mechanism to stop the fighting and the continued inter-Arab differences have rendered the Arab League without any credibility, said the paper. Indeed the continued war in Yemen cannot be stopped by wishful thinking or

mere appeals for an end to bloodshed but through practical steps on the part of a collective effort by the Arab Nation, said the daily.

Referring to the start of autonomy rule in Gaza and Jericho, a columnist in Al Dastour said that the autonomy rule was celebrated by the Palestinians who do not consider its beginning as the end of the road. Indeed the start of autonomy and self-rule after 27 years under occupation means a lot for the oppressed people who realise that this serves as a start of a new struggle for a complete freedom for all areas still under Israeli rule, said

Mohammed Kawash. In the writer's view, the autonomy rule shakes the foundation of a Zionist dogma that only a Jewish society will enjoy living in the promised land of Palestine as the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho marks the beginning of the end of occupation.

Taher Al Udwan, another Al Dastour columnist, said that the shuttle diplomacy conducted by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was not likely to achieve a good result since nothing on the ground has changed and no signs have appeared that Israel could be sincere and would embark on genuine peace. The writer said that Syria wants all of its occupied land liberated before peace can be achieved while Israel wants to follow the path of secret contacts with Damascus and achieve a separate treaty. Also despite Damascus's continued calls on Washington to play the role of active partner, the Americans are not committing themselves to any move that would not please their Israeli allies, said the writer.

Saleh Al Qallab said that the Palestinian people have all the right to rejoice at the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the areas of Jericho and Gaza following 27 years of occupation. The columnist who writes for Al Dastour said that Palestinians have all reason to be jubilant at the start of their freedom while they continue the struggle for the end of occupation in Palestine. The pain over the fratricidal war in Yemen, he said, should not stop the Palestinians and the other Arabs from expressing their joy over the start of freedom for Palestine.

LETTERS

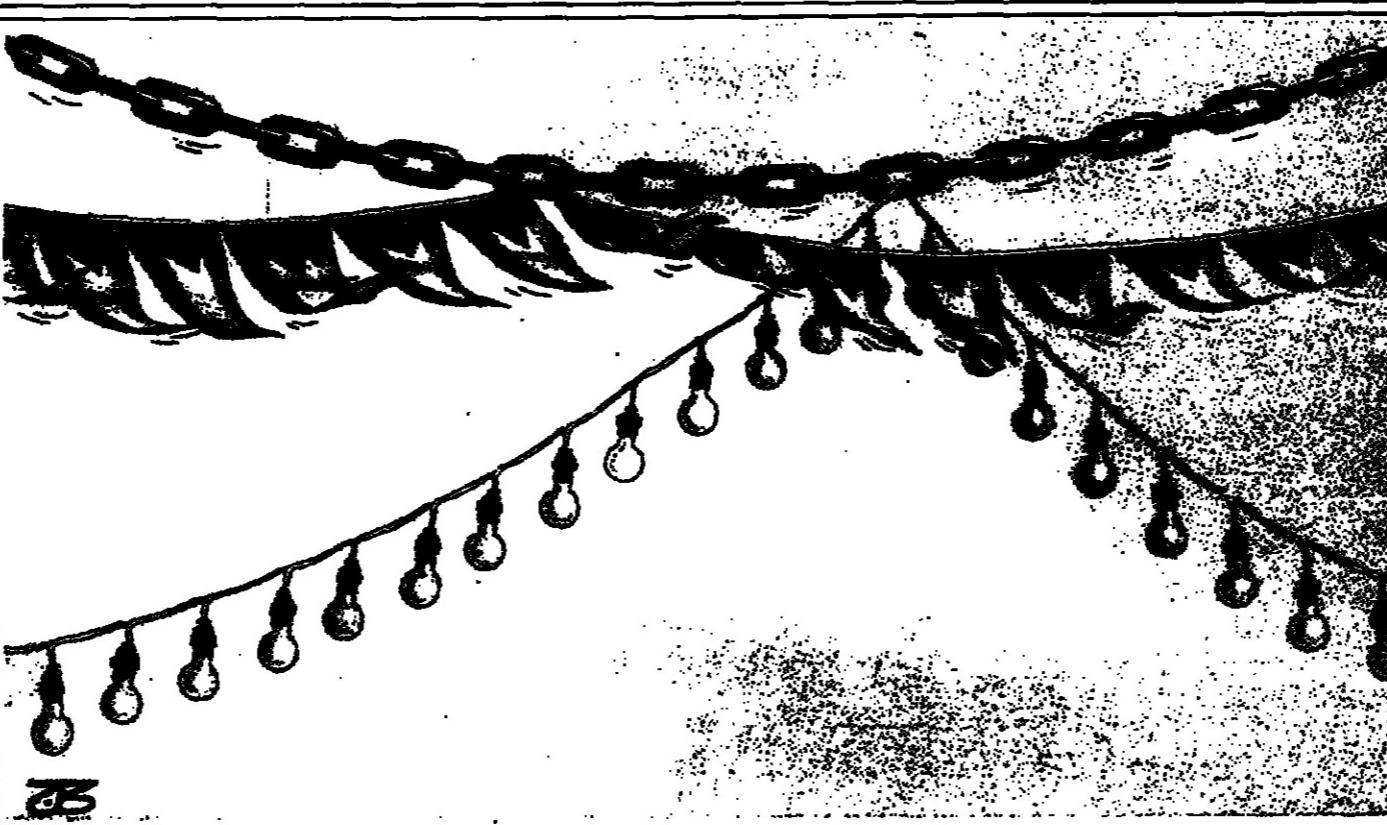
A 'serious oversight'

To the Editor:

THE JORDAN TIMES' first page special report of the seminar entitled "Jerusalem - The key to genuine peace in the Middle East," by Sa'eda Kilani (May 8), though commendable suffered from a minor but serious oversight.

Unlike the Jordan Times we know, the report failed to mention the seminar sponsor, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee - Middle East Regional Office - Amman. Hordes of motivated contributing volunteer activists - felt deprived of a deserved tribute, when their organisation's sponsorship role was no where to be found in that report - undoubtedly an oversight. Recognition, and giving credit where credit is due, is conventional productive encourage-

ment.



Uncertain future for Palestinians in Lebanon

By Rosemary Sayigh

THE PROPOSAL by the Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayas, to "redistribute" Palestinians living in Lebanon (Al Safir, April 18 and MEI 474) has deepened concern about their future. Evoking Lebanon's "delicate composition", Mr. Buwayas proposes that 20 per cent of Lebanon's Palestinians should go to Gaza or Jericho; another 25 per cent should join kin wherever these may be; the rest should be given priority by any country with space for immigrants. Under no circumstances will Lebanon agree to give Palestinians citizenship. Mr. Buwayas underlined Lebanon's unanimity on this point.

The exact number of Palestinians who live in Lebanon, or have residence rights there, is unknown. A recent UNRWA figure of registered refugees is 351,000, but this figure is problematic because it includes a certain number of Lebanese, and does not include all Palestinians. Excluded are all refugees who arrived after the closure of the registration lists in the early 1950s, most of whom came after Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967. Of registered refugees, less than half live in camps. But the rest do not necessarily enjoy a higher standard of living: the majority live in rural or suburban settlements hardly distinguishable from camps.

Mr. Buwayas's proposal comes soon after a visit by UNRWA's commissioner-general to Beirut during which he met both the president and the prime minister, in itself a sign of crisis. The main subject of discussion was likely to have been recent government moves discouraging reconstruction of the camps. This followed a meeting on Feb. 21 between Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and a Palestinian delegation. High on the Palestinian agenda was the fate of the war-displaced (muhajirin) under notice to quit illegal accommodation in camps.

Mr. Hariri told the delegation that camps in the Beirut area would soon have to go as part of plans for "beautification" of the city. The prime minister also evoked past sectarian battles by saying that camps with hostile (i.e. Maronite or Shiite) neighbours should not be rebuilt. These warnings affect five out of the 11 remaining camps. A project to rebuild the Haifa-Tripoli railway line may affect four other camps.

Pessimists assert that in Lebanon today Mr. Hariri is the government, no other voices count. His "money is right" style could bulldoze through the legal niceties of camp site leases, U.N. objections and Palestinian resistance. They say, too, that Palestinians no longer enjoy

\$20m for this project which is likely to engulf Shati. Up to now public electricity has not been restored to this camp even though subscriptions have been paid.

Where can the many Palestinians who need low-cost housing and UNRWA services live?

Mr. Hariri insisted that by June all war-displaced in Beirut and Sidon (more than 4,500 families) must leave squatter homes or face eviction. He advised that international money should be sought to give every Palestinian family \$25,000 with which to buy or rent accommodation outside the camps.

Pressure to emigrate

Mr. Hariri said also to have reiterated the official Lebanese position that there can be no question of giving Palestinians civic rights (the most crucial being the right to employment) before a general Middle East settlement. Yet though the question of their status is said to be "frozen", on the ground changes are taking place that suggest the official policy, however uncoordinated, is to multiply pressures on Palestinians to emigrate.

Palestinians are divided as to how much importance should be attached to the prime minister's words. Some point out that he expressed his own views, not official policy. Opposition has been voiced by important figures such as Walid Jumblatt (minister for the war-displaced), and Nabih Berri (speaker of parliament). Mr. Hariri's popularity is declining, the optimists say, while movements that support the Palestinians (mainly Islamist) are on the rise. A decision to demolish the camps would have to pass through parliament. Rupture of longstanding arrangements would certainly arouse protest from the U.N. The unpredictability of Lebanon's politics leaves room for hope and, better, for action.

Pessimists assert that in Lebanon today Mr. Hariri is the government, no other voices count. His "money is right" style could bulldoze through the legal niceties of camp site leases, U.N. objections and Palestinian resistance. They say, too, that Palestinians no longer enjoy

the support of any mainstream political party or community. The traditionally pro-Palestinian "national progressive" bloc has been angered by the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and is unlikely actively to oppose state moves against the camps as long as these are carried out without overt violence. Syria has both political and economic motives not to intervene to prevent such moves, which Palestinians here see as part of an international and regional plan to break up old Palestinian settlements and disperse their residents into a yet wider diaspora.

Moreover, the government has been moving skilfully to avoid confrontation, dealing with small groups of squatters at a time, moving out Lebanese as well as Palestinian muhajirin (though paying the Lebanese higher compensation), and capitalising on Lebanese resentment of continuing military operations from the south. Furthermore, there are contradictions that weaken pro-Palestinian voices: those who have supported the Palestinian national struggle have not campaigned for their civic rights. And those who support their claim to civic rights have not worked out ways these could be implemented without surrendering national identity and repatriation rights.

Palestinian leaders say that the people will resist demolition of the camps, just as they have resisted other attacks in the past. Meanwhile, they are mobilising support in parliament and elsewhere, among a broad spectrum of political figures. But whether or not official policy increases Palestinian emigration, there is no doubt about its effects on those who depend economically and socially on camp space. As PFLP leader Salah Salah said in an interview: "All the problems that a poor population suffers from — sickness, drugs, family quarrels — can only be exacerbated." Given the already low level of welfare, this is a sobering thought.

Rosemary Sayigh, who lives in Beirut, is the author of *Too Many Enemies: the Palestinian experience in Lebanon*. The article is reprinted from *Middle East International*.

JOHN is 115

Farid Husseini,
ADC Volunteers,
Amman.

Features

A battle lost but a war won for S. Africa's blacks

By James Flannery
Reuters

BLOOD RIVER, South Africa — Tribal warriors with spears lost to superior-armed white forces at Blood River but it turned out to be just one battle in a war that blacks finally won in South Africa.

This is the desolate place that gave the world the Afrikaner word laager, a defensive circle of wagons that turned out to be more a closed state of mind than a military doctrine.

A humiliating defeat here for blacks dogged South Africa's majority population during white rule. But it inspired the liberation struggle of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress which took power in all-race elections last month.

War memorials litter South Africa's colonial battlefields, like Blood River, but hardly any honour the "other side" — valiant black fighters.

"I think in the next couple of years we shall see the appearance of solid tributes to black military feats," says military historian David Rattray, an expert on the Zulu wars.

At present the victories and defeats of South Africa's warrior tribe of Zulus, the nation's largest black group still with a pivotal role, go without much public acknowledgement.

Grandiose marble, stone and steel reliefs pay tribute just to the white troops, Afrikaner and British, slain in clashes of the West's 19th century "scramble for Africa."

To the closed-minds of white supremacists, heroism was for European soldiers — their opponents were merely "bloodthirsty savages," honoured in only a couple of places, at Rorke's Drift, a British victory, and at Ulundi, where the British finally smashed the Zulu nation.

Among the most extraordinary memorials in the world is a full-scale metal reconstruction, on the sun-baked plains of KwaZulu-Natal, of a Boer fighting laager.

Built to last centuries, here is a colossal ring of 64 replica ox-wagons, made of cast-steel, overlaid with bronze — An almost unbelievable sight on remote grassland in the former Zululand, about 350 kilometres southeast of Johannesburg.

This is a well-spring for Afrikanerdom, marking a so-called day of the vow when Boer trekkers pledged eternal dedication to God if granted victory over their Zulu foes.

They had just a week to wait. They drew their wagons lashed together into a tight

circle on the banks of the Ncome River, a tributary of the Thukela. And at dawn on Dec. 16, 1838, they were attacked by 10,000 Zulu warriors.

Backed by cannons, the Boers, each armed with five muskets reloaded by their wives, dispersed the warriors, killing 3,000 Zulus. Only three of 470 trekkers were wounded, none fatally.

Not a single Zulu got closer than 10 metres of the laager. In three hours of carnage, the adjacent river ran red with blood — hence the name given by the Boers, Blood River.

It confirmed their belief in a God-given destiny in pushing into a promised land — though some historians doubt the authenticity of the vow which made Dec. 16 the most sacred day in the Afrikaner calendar.

True to form, there is nothing at the Blood River monument to honour the extreme bravery of spear-carrying Zulu warriors, cut down by superior weapons in repeated charges.

It was an early milestone in a series of settler wars, ending in the 1799 British victory at Ulundi, capital of the Kwazulu former black homeland. The battles marked one of history's greatest challenges offered by an indigenous population to advancing Europeans.

Now, with the assumption of power of the black majority, the war — from these bush battlefields through townships such as Sharpeville past conquerors' instruments of oppression like apartheid — is over.

"The European conquest has been reversed," wrote white South African editor Ken Owen. "The voting undid the outcome of nine frontier wars and immeasurable skirmishes. The great trek was stripped of symbolism..."

"This election has liberated black South Africans, not only from the oppressions of apartheid, or even from white rule, but from a crushing history of three centuries of defeat and humiliation."

"Blood River and Ulundi are merely lost battles in a victorious war, mere set-backs, like Dunkirk for Britain or Pearl Harbour for Americans."

Already here the mystique of the "vow" seems on the wane. On a public holiday it drew only a few visitors. Zulu children sold carvings of buffaloes, their spread horns marking the classic Zulu tactic of frontal assault and encirclement.

The whites in their laager, despite superior weapons and resources, finally were overtaken by greater numbers.

By Youssef Azmeh
Reuters

DUBAI — Superior north Yemeni forces mercilessly pounded southern strongholds in their drive towards Aden on Wednesday but military experts asked what would they do if and when they reached the outskirts of the city.

They said President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern armies may well capture the key Al Anad military base 60 kilometres north of Aden, enabling them to link up with other Saleh forces entrenched close to Aden along the eastern coast.

But this in itself would not bring about the downfall of southern leaders holed up in Aden who appear to have rallied the majority of southern Yemenis behind them in their defiance of Mr. Saleh's authority.

Mr. Saleh's foreign minister said on Tuesday northern forces did not need to capture Aden because its people themselves would drive out the president's rivals led by his Vice-President and arch-foe Ali Salem Al Beidh.

But this was dismissed by most experts as rhetoric two weeks after Mr. Saleh launched his all-out attack to unseat Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) that has dominated southern Yemen for more than 25 years.

The experts said that barring a political settlement, while the president has rejected, Mr. Saleh had two options — to try to storm Aden or lay siege to the city in the hope of forcing its surrender.

Neither option was attractive or to Mr. Saleh's advantage.

If he were to storm the city, he would face well-armed and



Hundreds of foreigners wait in the port of Aden for their turn to be evacuated by sea to Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden May 6, two days after civil war erupted (AFP photo)

Yemen: no easy victory

It would expose his armies' rearguard and supply lines to attack by tribesmen eager for booty and by YSP militiamen and their southern supporters.

Mr. Saleh could shell the city to bring it to submission, but such action against an urban centre packed with civilians was likely to raise an international outcry and could backfire against him, the experts said.

The southern air force, operating from Aden airport and other Russian-built airports further east, was also likely to be more effective in harassing the northern troops once they

come out into open country around Aden, they added.

Aden has been using its superior air power to attack Mr. Saleh's advancing armies but experts believe it has not been effective in halting their advance along the mountains and ravines of present fronts in the hills mainly north of the city.

"The longer it lasts, the easier it becomes for the south, as their own supply lines get shorter, and the harder it becomes for the north," a Gulf-based military analyst said.

"No one is going to win an early victory," said another.

highly-motivated defenders likely to fight a classical urban guerrilla war that would be both bloody and costly.

The experts said Aden was heavily fortified and the YSP had kept 30,000 men in reserve to defend the city of 350,000 people.

"The people of Aden will defend the city because, rightly or wrongly, they believe they will be massacred by Mr. Saleh's men," said one Arab diplomat with close southern connections.

"They see the northern tribesmen who from the mainstay of Mr. Saleh's army as

cut-throats and bandits who would wreak havoc in secular Aden in the name of Islam," he said.

He was referring to the long-standing antipathy between the highly-conservative and largely lawless mountain tribes people of the north and the relatively modernised and liberalised people of Aden.

Northerners see Adenis as godless Communists who allow their women to go uncovered, rarely go to the mosque and drink beer in public.

A lengthy siege would also stretch Mr. Saleh's communications lines along treacherous terrain.

'Forgotten' in Jerusalem

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SHEICK JARRAH, Jerusalem — As the Palestinians of Jericho and Gaza enter the era of self-rule, their brethren in Jerusalem can look forward to no such future. Plagued by daily confrontations with the Israeli military and a virtual siege dividing them from the rest of West Bank, Arab Jerusalemites feel that time and the Arab World has forgotten their existence.

Keepers of the holy places, Muslims and Christians, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians and countless other non-Jewish minority groups, who have called Jerusalem their home for hundreds if not thousands of years, have been cut off from family and friends in the West Bank for much of the last six years due to Israeli military and security regulations.

Already here the mystique of the "vow" seems on the wane. On a public holiday it drew only a few visitors. Zulu children sold carvings of buffaloes, their spread horns marking the classic Zulu tactic of frontal assault and encirclement.

The security of Israel is threatened by an East Jerusalem that is "open to the West Bank," claim the Israelis. Thus monstrous road blocks and military check points surround all roads which enter into the holy city.

West Bankers, with the exception of a selected few who must get a security clearance from the Israeli military, are not allowed to enter Jerusalem for "security reasons."

"Every Palestinian is a terrorist unless he/she proves otherwise," Abu Yassin, a taxi driver taking an arduous and dangerous back road into Jerusalem from Ramallah, says jokingly.

Mr. Abu Yassin is a native of Ramallah, whose taxi-service route from Ramallah to Jerusalem was interrupted by the security regulations imposed by Israel banning West Bank residents from entering Jerusalem. He has a West Bank identification card and a light blue West Bank licence plate which distinguishes his car on site.

Light blue coloured identification cards differentiate a West Banker from a Jerusalemite. A West Bank identification card identify an individual by name, sex, age, religion and place of residence. A Jerusalemite card identifies people along the same lines with the difference that religion in the classical sense is not mentioned under the religion category is written either Arab or Jew.

The "closure" of Jerusalem, as West Bankers call it, has created serious administrative problems for the Palestinian society, many of whose main health, media and educational institutions are based in Jerusalem.

"Patients have died because the Israelis would not allow them into Jerusalem," says Shawki Harb, head of the Ramallah Hospital who performs surgeries at the Makassad several times a week.

The closure of Jerusalem, as West Bankers call it, has created serious administrative problems for the Palestinian society, many of whose main health, media and educational institutions are based in Jerusalem.

"The other day when Dennis Ross was in Tunis speaking to Yasser Arafat, I sent an urgent message to Tunis: — tell the Americans we need to get into Jerusalem," recalls Hanna Nasser, the head of Bir Zeit University near Ramallah.

"The Arab World is talk-

ing about 'liberating' Jerusalem when the fact of the matter is we can't even get in," explains Dr. Nasser bitterly.

The Jerusalem-based Orient House remains the main meeting point for Palestinian negotiators and it is the building which is considered by Palestinians to be the "seat" of the future Palestinian self-government.

It is where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)'s main representative in the occupied territories, Faisal Husseini, welcomes foreign and official guests on behalf of the future government. But Israelis, who recently began demonstrating in front of the Orient House to protest the "official" Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, see it as evidence of Palestinian "designs" on the city.

This reporter was unable to find one Israeli, among supporters of the ruling Labour Party, the liberal Meretz Party or the Likud Party, who supported the withdrawal of Israel from East Jerusalem or the part of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

Palestinians consider Jeru-

salem to be just as much their city as Israelis do. U.N. resolutions and international law clearly state that East Jerusalem is "occupied territory", something Israel has thus far refused to acknowledge.

"The Israelis want to make Jerusalem a de facto Israeli city so that by the time we want to negotiate over its status and our rights here the facts on the ground will prevent any changes," says legal advisor to the Orient House Ziad Abu Ziad.

Human rights organisations, media bureaus as well as cultural centres based in Jerusalem are only partially functioning due to the fact that their employees, most of whom live outside the city, are not allowed to enter Jerusalem.

Land and property confiscation take place almost daily. The city has been entirely encircled by Jewish settlements and "rumour" has it that many of the Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza are being promised "resettlement" in Jerusalem as compensation for their leaving the settlements that they are in.

Thus the Arabs of Jeru-

salem fear that their presence in their city will remain "symbolic" rather than functional if Israel is to have it's way in the negotiations with the PLO.

"Everyone says 'no peace without Jerusalem' but practically they can't force the Israelis to obey international laws," says Yacoub Alami, a merchant in the old city.

Work had only just begun in January on the reconstruction of an Old Jerusalem home that is to be transformed into the Al Wasiti Art Centre — a place in Palestine for Art and Artists," but even here the strains of the occupation are evident.

"All the workers are from outside Jerusalem and they can't get in — so we had to put the project on hold," says Vera Tamari, one of the founders of the centre. "Israel does not want a Palestinian cultural centre in Jerusalem — Israel does not want Jerusalem to be part of Palestine — but of course it is," she says.

Mad cows and an English disease

By Jürgen Kröning

BRITISH POLITICIANS threatened to take legal action against Bonn: a Shropshire farmer cancels an £80,000 order for German farm machinery; enraged politicians in Dublin accuse the German government of "dirty tricks". Scientists beg to differ and principles are compromised. To cries of "scaremongering", "protectionism" and (not least in Britain) "well done Bonn", Germany's stated intention to ban British beef because of BSE — bovine spongiform encephalitis or "mad cow disease" — is souring a lot of relationships.

Both sides accept that BSE could be caused by cattle feed containing sheep offal and infected with scrapie, a deadly brain disease known for 200 years. MAFF also accepts there's a possibility that BSE has no direct link with scrapie but might be caused by cows being constantly fed their own infected brains.

The uncertainty is growing. The concentrated feed was banned in 1989 and one year later, MAFF predicted there would probably be no more than 20,000 BSE cases. Despite equally reassuring forecasts in later years, the number of infected British cattle has risen to more than 120,000. More than 650 cattle a week are still slaughtered and British government assurances that the epidemic is in retreat were based only on suspected cases.

What is puzzling is that more than 8,000 cattle born in 1991, developed BSE symptoms, treated it with Oxime, the antidote given to British and U.S. troops against possible nerve gas

poisoning in the Gulf war. The cow recovered, but MAFF officials insisted on putting the animal down and Mr. Purdey was denied further access to the drug for continuing treatment.

The ministry did not seem interested, says Mr. Purdey, in taking up the OP line of research but the scientific advisory committee of the Journal of Nutritional Medicine was sufficiently impressed by his theory to accept his lengthy paper for publication in March.

Mr. Purdey points to three sources of chronic OP poisoning in the 1980s: pour-on chemicals used against warble fly and lice, that penetrate the cattle through the skin; citrus pulp with high residues of OP pesticides widely used in Britain as a cheap source of cattle-feed; and OP residues in concentrated cattle feed containing meat from sheep which since 1984 have been dipped twice a year in chemical cocktails. Compulsory dipping stopped in 1992 but most sheep are still dipped. The British government fights hard against any doubts which might endanger the dominance of the official scrapie-BSE line. MAFF officials stress that their scientists have looked for a connection between agro-chemicals and BSE, but no correlation has been found.

What they have not done, though, is look at the consequences of low-dose, chronic

OP poisoning. A study would take many years but in the meantime Mr. Purdey's theory has obvious advantages: it could explain why the numbers of mad cows have risen dramatically despite the ban on concentrated cattle feed; it could explain why only British has been seriously affected by BSE (there have been 83 cases in Ireland, 57 in Switzerland, six in France and just one in Germany and Denmark).

The strength of the British chemical industry, as Sir Richard Body, former Tory MP and head of the Common Agriculture Committee would confirm, has shaped British agriculture since 1945. Certain brands of OP insecticides, not recommended by the World Health Organisation, have been widely used in Britain and in no other country has OP concentration and frequency of use been as high.

Between 1989 and 1991, at the height of the BSE scare, the licences of three OP-containing pesticides were not renewed by MAFF. Could this be seen as a silent retreat? The open question remains, however: MAFF's own medicine directorate licensed the OP compounds. Did the ministry demand and receive adequate testing for adverse results, asks Richard North, a former environmental health officer and now a consultant on food safety.

Some British scientists predict that BSE and CJD

danger?

A decision will be made in the next few weeks. In the meantime they expect the EU to suggest a Euro solution. If they don't, they seem prepared to take drastic action. As Mr. Seehofer said in the German parliament last month, "We can't go on like this because it amounts to using humans as guinea pigs."

Halfway measures, such as banning meat from animals over three years old and from herds not clear of BSE for more than four years, are regarded as impractical, not least because British vets and officials would have to certify

that the rods that remain in the reactor are still carry out meaningful checks of the rods that remain in the reactor. A fresh IAEA team was put on standby to fly to North Korea.

"As of today, it still seems possible to implement the required safeguards measures," the agency said.

Inspection of the spent rods would enable the IAEA to determine their age and verify whether any material had been diverted to make plutonium, a key ingredient in an atomic bomb.

The West suspects Pyong-yang might have removed some of the fuel when the reactor was mysteriously shut down in 1989.

U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry telephoned South Korean Defence Minister Rhee Boung-Tae on Friday to discuss the nuclear and security steps on the peninsula, a ministry spokesman said without giving details.

Rich nations accused of cutting aid to poor

GENEVA (R) — Rich countries were accused by a coalition of major non-governmental aid organisations of cutting assistance to the developing world and abandoning over a billion people who live in poverty.

In its annual report, "The State of Aid, 1994," the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) said Japan, Denmark, Ireland and New Zealand among industrialised states were planning aid increases in the next few years.

The 162-page report also argued aid was becoming more commercialised and linked to creating advantages for business in donor states.

"The reality of aid in 1994 is depressing," the Geneva-based ICVA said. "With a few exceptions, donors appear to be failing to live up to their commitments on aid volume."

Harder economic times at home were bringing on "aid fatigue," the report suggested.

"... In some countries recessions

appear to be increasing people's preoccupation with domestic need... 'charity at home' is being heard more often," it said.

More than a billion people around the world lives in absolute poverty, eight million children died annually from preventable childhood diseases and one in three in poor states was stunted by malnutrition, the report said.

But member countries of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) appeared to see economic adjustment and reform as being the essential conditions for development, and focused aid accordingly, the report added.

"It is as if the alleviation of poverty is a bonus which is sure to follow," the ICVA declared.

"Until donors make poverty reduction their first priority, until improvements in the quality of life for the world's poorest people are seen as the

benchmark of success for aid, billions of dollars a year will continue to be diverted away from families for whom underemployment, disease and malnutrition are everyday realities," it added.

The report said Japan, which provides 20 per cent of total overseas development aid from OECD members, planned a substantial increase over the next five years — although it warned economic woes had produced pressures in Tokyo for cuts.

The report said even traditionally generous donors like the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway had begun to cut back, although from much higher portions of GDP of around one per cent.

Russia frees companies to export arms — Interfax

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government has decided to allow arms and military technology companies to export their excess production and sign contracts with Western partners, Interfax News Agency reported.

The move seemed to signal the end of a state monopoly in the arms exporting business set up just four months ago to bring order to the trade.

Under the new arrangements, which Interfax said were intended to increase the effectiveness of military-technical cooperation with Western companies, the government would continue to ban sales of certain weapons.

Companies seeking to export arms would be screened and would need special registration, Interfax said. They would have the right to export production beyond what the state required.

The Rosvooruzhniy state monopoly, answerable to the government, was set up to handle all arms exports. Russian arms exports have fallen sharply in recent years and last year were worth \$1.2 billion, Interfax said.

Weekly analysis of movements and trends of major world currencies

This report is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai. Rates are given as of Wednesday, May 18, 1994.

Overview

Fundamental View: Central banks have followed up their dollar-buying intervention with interest rate hikes in the U.S. and cuts in Germany and Japan, but sentiment towards the dollar remains weak. We continue to believe that the dollar will eventually move higher against the Deutschemark, but will remain weak against the yen. With the potential for Germany's discount rate to be cut only one more time this year following the 50 basis point cut on May 11, we recently moderated our forecast for the Deutschemark a 12-month target of D/USD 1.75.

We still expect Japan's trade surplus — politics or not — to keep upward pressure on the yen in the long term, and maintain our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

Technical View: Aided by massive central bank intervention in support of the U.S. dollar, the dollar index was up 0.6 per cent for the week ended May 6. This gain broke a string of three straight weekly losses. Sentiment has been improving in recent weeks, but is still not better than neutral. Continued strength into Monday and Tuesday of this week has allowed short term momentum to turn up from an oversold condition and is even beginning to put pressure on medium term momentum.

Thus, the prospects for a potentially important May low appear to be improving. Support exists at 91.20 and 90.30. The ability to rally back through the 93.50-94.00 range would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 95.30 would probably clinch it.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: Fearing a rout in the dollar, the Clinton administration has reportedly resigned itself to the need for tighter monetary policy and a stronger dollar to brake growth and curb potential inflationary pressures in the U.S. But the administration continues to give mixed signals, with the U.S. Trade Representative saying on May 18 that trade policy toward Japan remains unchanged since February despite other indications that the administration will back away from its aggressive push for trade concessions for Japan, which appeared to be linked to its changed policy on the dollar.

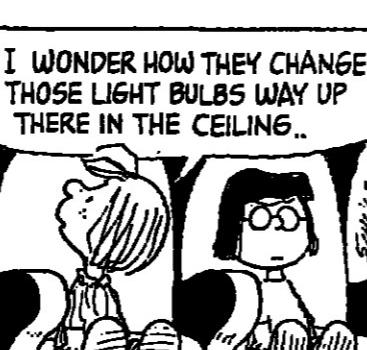
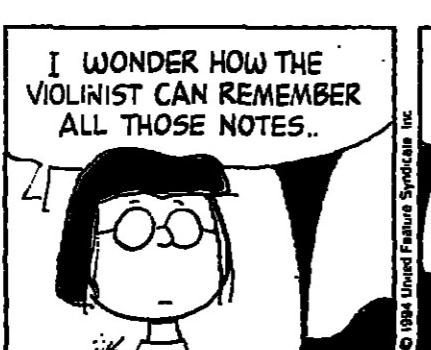
The yen could also prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance. Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years.

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the yen from breaking through the JPY/USD 100 level. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

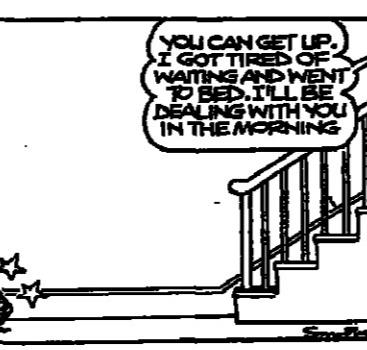
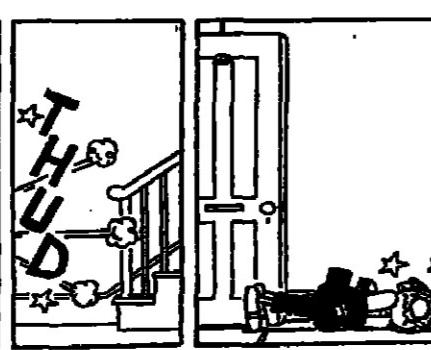
Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 6 and dropped an additional 2.0 per cent on Monday and Tuesday. Sentiment remains neutral. Both short and medium term momentum indicators are peaking, suggesting that the rally from last March's low (near 106 Y/U.S.\$) and perhaps from last January's low (near 113) is coming to an end. Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may well be positioned for its most extended period of weakness in months.

At the least, it is likely that any nearby strength will not be technically confirmed. The pressures are, therefore, mounting. With that in mind, 106-110 is viewed as significant support; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. With the recent move to new highs, 97-98 is now indicated resistance.

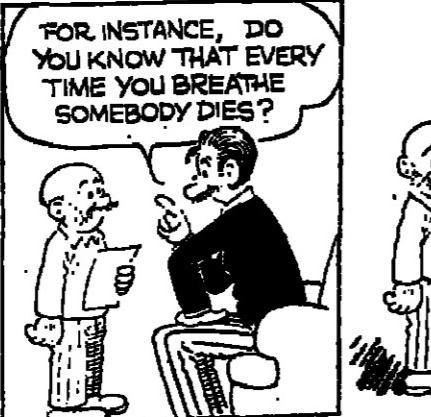
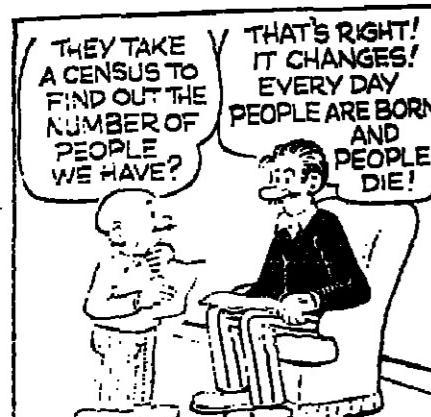
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 23, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Bring your finest talents to the attention of higher-ups who can assist you in getting the backing you need for a worthy project. Show that you have poise when handling personal and private responsibilities.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have a good opportunity now to handle business matters wisely and advance in your line of endeavour. Be optimistic in your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to understand the aims of associates better so that you can coordinate your efforts more gainfully. Be poised for any situation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have to make some changes if you are to gain your aims at this time. Strive to be more successful in the eyes of loved ones and bigwigs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Engage in familiar activities which could bring you pleasure and profit. Take no risks where your health is concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look to good friends for help in furthering your pet projects during the daytime. Handle dull chores in the evening time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan how to improve your reputation and show that you are an excellent citizen. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will have much put aside for later.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look to a higher-up for the support you need in a new project you have in mind. A good evening for quiet relaxation with your loved one.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Morning is the best time for expansion in career activities.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 24, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As we experience the Lunar eclipse at the Full Moon in Sagittarius, combined with the Moon sextile Neptune and Uranus will want to put a new course of action into operation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study new ideas that could lead to advancement in your line of endeavour. Enjoy the company of close ties tonight and you can have a wonderful time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't criticise a close tie at this time or there could be a severance of connections. Don't rely on your intuition today.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can get excellent results if you are more supportive of associates. Maintain your poise at all times today and you will show confidence.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on tasks ahead of you and gain benefits. Be more cooperative with fellow associates you deal with.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Figure out a practical way that could give you added security in the days ahead. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will come out on top.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Morning is fine for handling civic matters. In the afternoon influential persons can help you advance in career matters you are involved in.

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CENAP

TOAQU

CUROGH

SMEECH

New arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAGER GROUP MAKEUP CRAYON

Answer: What a pulp mill manager never runs out of — PAPER WORK

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 21, 1994

BY THOMAS S. PIERSON, ASTROLOGER, CARROLL HIGHTER FOUNDATION

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although there are no exact aspects today you can follow your hunches as long as you handle all your duties painstakingly and make proper plans to rid yourself of whatever hinders your progress.

ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) Morning is best for handling responsibilities and to avoid unpleasant strife in the afternoon. Happiness can be yours by what you get done.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study your surroundings and make long-range plans for improvement. Attend a social function in the evening and have a wonderful time.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You have tasks to do which require special care, so be precise and gain added benefits. Be happy with loved ones at home.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

It may seem difficult to gain your aims early in the day but conditions are bound to improve later for you and those around you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

A good day to reach a firm understanding with your family and to keep any promises you have made. Engage in your favourite hobby today.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Morning is fine for hand-

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 22, 1994

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An important day and evening for you to tie loose ends together and to make sure that you understand both sides of a dispute that you could, allow yourself to be drawn into. Strive for neutrality.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You are able to carry through with some creative task and get excellent results. Make plans for the future for you and the ones in your life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Be sure to follow all rules and regulations which apply to you. Contact good friends in the afternoon and discuss what the future holds for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Get rid of some strange condition at home and maintain cord there. Avoid one who may want to harm you in some way.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Go to places where you can express your finest philosophy of life. Be more precise in handling a personal matter which have appeared.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

A good day to seek the company of family members and friends. Follow the advice of an expert into whatever will help you progress.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

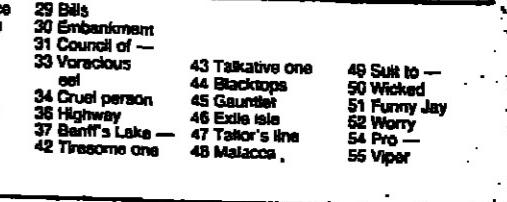
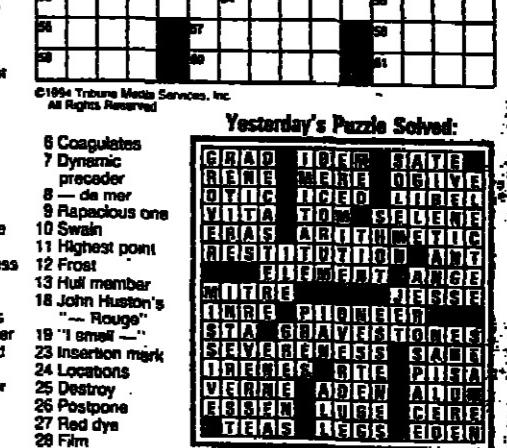
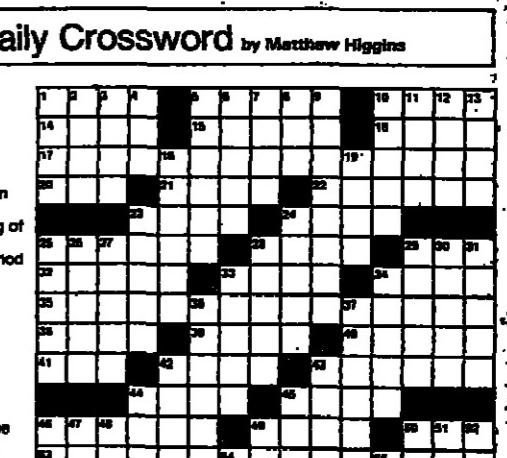
Don't be forced with anyone early in the day. Try to be with persons with whom you have much in common. Be poised for any situation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Morning is fine for meditating on lofty concepts and thinking about the future. Im-

THE Daily Crossword

By Matthew Higgins



powerful explosion in southern Lebanon, killing any casualties, used by a bomb at the scene, killed in investigation was cracked the timing revealed. It happened over a wide area. Mr. Yitzhak said, aware of why the target of a bomb in metropolis of Beirut on Feb. 12, met town of Prince Muhammed bin Shieh Muslim, but

raeli militia

Lebanese guerrillas allies in its South Lebanon, militia sources said, and positions of the rebel Hayyad, but caused no damage civilian was killed during the occupation

poll

Yitzhak Rabin is according to an opinion Labour Party leader, carried out for the were asked to say who lead the government position Likud Party defense minister and right. Far-right Israel's backing, one person and ex-Heads Shimon Peres trailed, and that Mr. Rabin was cent for Netanyahu, of the 500 people present and Wednesday vice

market kills 16

people were killed when a rocket struck the minister Gulyuddin Hikim garrison which is loyalist Burhanuddin Hikim to fire the rocket. He work of pro-Rabin forces themselves from Mr. Hikim together with northern, seeks to topple the firing rockets and anti-capital, where more than renewed hostilities broke a seven-year-old truce, ended in other parts of it.

of drugs

authorities seized 15 May, arresting 1,480. It is said, Mr. Seiffert is arrested between Marshall programs from Afghanistan and America via Turkey, 95 tonnes of drugs — and arrested 150 addicts, according to

bya offered bribe

prominent Libyan dissident has said a senior member has said a senior figure down her campaign the New York Times' reign Minister Hassan 1981 and became a crucial position figure abroad after Dec. 11, Libyan opposition leader Abu Al-Omar, has been government agent, is on its territory. Abu Al-Omar, who lives in the Paris-based hotel told her Tripoli wife four children and her son as being condemned upon behalf of her son, two concubines he referred to Mr. Kithan as a major concern of the

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Battle rages for Rwandan capital after hospital bombed

KIGALI (R) — Rwandan rebels and government forces battled with mortar and artillery early Friday in Kigali in some of the most intense battles the capital has suffered so far, witnesses said.

The fighting had raged through the night, with red and green tracer lighting the sky over the blood-soaked city where hours earlier at least 30 patients in hospital were killed in a mortar attack.

Mortar and artillery fire were most intense around the key government barracks at Kanombe, just east of the airport, and around the police headquarters.

"Is this the final battle for Kigali? I don't know. The RPF (rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front) is squeezing more tightly," U.N. military chief Major-General Romeo Dallaire told Reuters.

The rebels were apparently driving to battle into submission their foes in the Kanombe garrison and the main police barracks.

Washington — Hanoi inch toward swapping diplomats

WASHINGTON (R) — Vietnam and the United States have agreed in principle to send 10 to 20 diplomats to each other's capitals as the next step toward normal relations, a senior Vietnamese official said Thursday.

Le Van Bang, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters he expected the diplomats to open projected "liaison" offices in Washington and Hanoi within the next three months.

He said he had agreed on the staffing level of 10 to 20 diplomats at a meeting Wednesday with James Hall, director of the State Department's office of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodian affairs.

Le Bang made his remarks at a business conference attended by the first big Vietnamese delegation to visit the United States since President Bill Clinton lifted a 19-year-old trade embargo on Feb. 3.

The two sides have been negotiating details of the offices since shortly after Mr. Clinton proposed them when he scrapped the trade ban. At issue has been their size, status and such matters as whether they will fly national flags. In separate but parallel talks, the two countries have been working out a comprehensive settlement of wartime financial claims.

The opening of the offices, which is subject to an exchange of protocols, would be an important step toward the normalization of relations.

But the United States has balked the establishment of full diplomatic ties to condemned Vietnamese cooperation in tracing the fate of the 2,235 U.S. servicemen missing in Indochina, 1,642 of them in Viet-

nam. Mr. Le Bang said the liaison office in Washington would make it easier to do business with Vietnam by issuing visas and acting as a kind of clearing house for information on opportunities. It would not be a full-fledged embassy.

Asked whether he expected the exchange of diplomats within months or weeks, Mr. Le Bang replied: "I think months. One month, two months, three months."

The State Department had no immediate comment, but a department official said some details had not yet been settled. Among these is when the Vietnamese will be allowed to move into the former South Vietnamese embassy in Washington.

Mr. Le Bang said Hanoi eventually planned to move its diplomats into embassy, which he had just toured as part of preparations for moving to Washington, where he is expected to head the Vietnamese office.

The handing over of the former South Vietnamese embassy is being worked out as part of a deal that would involve the simultaneous return of the former U.S. embassy in Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City.

Communists seized the U.S. embassy moments after helicopters plucked fleeing Americans and Vietnamese from its roof in April 1975.

Mr. Le Bang said he expected the liaison offices initially to be housed in temporary premises in Washington and Hanoi.

Gen. Dallaire, commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said he would try again to get the government to hand control of the airport to U.N. forces to make it neutral.

The airport is used to bring in vital humanitarian supplies and will be needed for troop reinforcements agreed by the Security Council but not yet assembled.

The troops are needed to try to stop massacres in which aid agencies say 500,000 people have been killed, mainly members of the Tutsi tribe, slain by government troops, Hutu militiamen, and mobs.

Hutu death squads went on the rampage after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6. They are apparently beyond the control of government forces, who witness say also participated in the killings.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants a first battalion of 500 Ghanaians and armoured personnel carriers to be flown in by U.S. aircraft to

secure Kigali Airport. The plan is that they would fan out from there.

But Washington wants the troops to deploy along safe border areas, a proposal Gen. Dallaire believes will not help most people.

Gen. Dallaire indicated that Kigombe Airport, close to the northern government garrison town of Rubengera, could be used as an alternative to Kigali for U.N. operations.

But Rubengera is being attacked by rebels from the east. To reach the capital, U.N. traffic would have to cross battle lines twice, analysts pointed out.

U.N. officials were bound for Kigali to try to persuade the warring parties to cooperate with peacekeeping forces, but air traffic was unlikely to be allowed into the airport.

Both sides say they will welcome a humanitarian force but the RPF warned it would treat U.N. forces as the enemy if they tried to come between them and government troops.

Malawi's UDF seen short of majority assembly vote

BLANTYRE, Malawi (R) — The opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) has emerged as the biggest parliamentary party in Malawi's landmark elections but appears short of an outright majority, unofficial results showed Friday.

With virtually all results of Tuesday's elections in hand, Bakili Muluzi's UDF had about 85 seats, the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP) between 56 and 57 seats and the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD) 35. There are 177 assembly seats.

Election officials said there was some dispute with results from the southern district of Nsanje, where the UDF was initially reported to have won and then lost two seats.

A high-level panel from Malawi's Electoral Commission conducting the ballot had been sent there early Friday to

investigate, they said.

One of the candidates standing in the Nsanje district is the MCP's Vice-President and Home Affairs Minister Gwanda Chakuumba.

The commission said it hoped to announce most if not all the results of the polls, Malawi's first pluralist elections in 30 years of President Kamuzu Banda's one-party rule, Friday afternoon.

Mr. Muluzi, 51 and a former MCP official, trounced Mr. Banda, the head of the MCP, in the parallel presidential final official results of this poll are also outstanding but Mr. Muluzi will be sworn in Saturday.

Mr. Muluzi said Thursday he would form a coalition government with AFORD of veteran trade unionist Chakwira Chikana should the UDF fail to gain a parliamentary majority.

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would form a coalition government with AFORD of veteran trade unionist Chakwira Chikana should the UDF fail to gain a parliamentary majority.

Australian opposition leader declares job vacant

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's embattled opposition leader John Hewson threw down the gauntlet to his party critics Friday, announcing a ballot for his own job — for which he said he expects to be the favourite.

Ending days of frenzied speculation about his future, he told a media conference here he had called a special party meeting for 2:30 p.m. (0430 GMT) Monday, and had declared all leadership position vacant.

"I think I will win quite well," said the former economics professor who as leader of the Liberal Party also heads the conservative coalition opposition in which the rural-based National Party is junior partner.

"I will be returned to the leadership of the Liberal Party with a renewed mandate — and then I will make some changes," he added.

His announcement follows an accusation by Mr. Hewson Thursday that elements of the Liberal Party — and the media

were trying to destabilise

In a clear reference to Mr. Hewson's leadership, former Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Tuesday that a few people needed "to be wedded out" to revive party fortunes.

The Liberal Party is at the moment further away from winning elections than it was in 1945 when Robert Menzies founded the party," Mr. Fraser said.

Mr. Hewson, 47, vowed the following day that he was "bloody well never going to give up" the leadership.

Elected Liberal leader in 1990, Mr. Hewson was reelected after leading the coalition to disastrous defeat in a so-called unusable election in March 1993 while Australia was still mired in the impact of its worst recession for 60 years.

He told reporters Friday it

was clear the speculation surrounding the leadership of the party had gained such momentum that the issue needed to be resolved as soon as possible.

Political crisis deepens in Azerbaijan over Karabakh

BAKU (R) — A political crisis in Azerbaijan deepened Thursday after the opposition marshalled resistance to a peace deal with Armenia that could bring Russian forces back on to Azeri soil.

A Russian-brokered plan to end the undeclared war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh would bring several hundred thousand Russian troops into Azerbaijan to police a ceasefire.

A total of 22 opposition parties launched a movement of national resistance with the aim of blocking "introduction of any troops under any flag, be they CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) or Russia."

An appeal to the people from the group, which included the nationalist Popular Front, warned that the introduction of such troops represented "an external threat" to the country.

Azerbaijan is the only member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with no Russian troops stationed on its territory.

Azerbaijan refused to sign the deal at talks in Moscow earlier this week and President Heydar Aliyev has not made it clear whether he fully backs the plan or not.

But the opposition clearly fears Mr. Aliyev will finally accept the agreement to end the six-year-long bloody conflict which constantly threatens the internal stability of his volatile country.

Karabakh technically belongs to Azerbaijan but ethnic Armenians are now military masters of the mountainous territory and have declared a separate republic. They have also occupied large areas of southern Azerbaijan.

The war has cost several thousands of lives, created more than one million refugees, mostly Azeris, and drained the economies of both Transcaucasian states.

The newly-formed movement said it planned to stage a peaceful rally in Baku Saturday against the government's policy on Karabakh.

A parliamentary crisis blew up over the issue Wednesday when 15 deputies walked out of parliament after the speaker had refused to allow discussion of the proposed peace deal.

The walkout meant the parliament fell short of a quorum.

Tofik Gasimov, chairman of the Standing Committee on State Reorganisation, described the situation as "a clas-

U.K. reply puts pressure on IRA

LONDON (R) — Britain, warning the IRA to stop playing for time, Friday piled pressure on the guerrillas to end their violence and join talks on a political settlement in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram told Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, that the answer it got Thursday to demands for clarification of an Anglo-Irish peace plan would be the British government's final word on the matter.

"There can be no more playing for time," Mr. Ancram told BBC Radio. "It's time to draw a line in the sand."

He said he intended to intensify consultations with Northern Ireland's constitutional parties to find the path to a settlement of a conflict that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in the province in the past 25 years.

The people of Northern Ire-

land were fed up with violence and were looking to politicians to keep up the momentum for peace.

Mr. Ancram said Sinn Fein could have a seat at the negotiating table if the Irish Republican Army (IRA) renounced violence as a means of achieving its goal of ousting British from Northern Ireland.

but he said Britain would not sit idly by while Sinn Fein considered the replies to the 20 questions it had posed about the Downing Street Declaration signed on Dec. 15 by Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds.

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He told reporters Friday it

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rounding the leadership of the party had gained such momentum that the issue needed to be resolved as soon as possible.

Mr. Hewson is not expected to give its response until after European elections on June 9.

"There's no question of waiting for anything," Mr. Ancram, who has helped shape the delicate peace process, said. "We've made it clear that no party or organisation can exercise a veto on the process of dialogue just by staying out."

Moderate Republican politician John Hume, who paved the way for the Downing Street Declaration with his own secret talks with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, added to the pressure by saying he hoped Sinn Fein would respond quickly and positively.

But the opposition clearly fears Mr. Aliyev will finally accept the agreement to end the six-year-long bloody conflict which constantly threatens the internal stability of his volatile country.

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No mention was made of the 37 U.S. veteran paratroopers aged 67 to 82 who plan to parachute over the village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise to mark the anniversary of their war drop.

Military sources said doctors

Bosnian factions fight for key supply roads

SARAJEVO (R) — Battles raged in Bosnia as the major powers met in Washington Friday to forge a common front and try to halt the two-year-old war in the former Yugoslav republic.

Muslim and Serb forces fought for control of roads vital for strategic advantage in the mountainous Bosnian terrain.

Fighting flared along a key Muslim supply line in the northeast, a U.N. military spokesman said, with artillery fire in the Olovo-Kladanj area straddling the road from Sarajevo to the northern Muslim stronghold of Tuzla.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said two people were wounded in Serb shelling of Muslim lines and of Kladanj town itself.

Muslim commanders in the area reported an advance into Serb territory, allowing them to threaten a Serb supply line from Serbia to their political headquarters in Pale, 15 kilometers southeast of Sarajevo.

In central Bosnia, shelling was on the increase around the Muslim-held town of Bugojno.

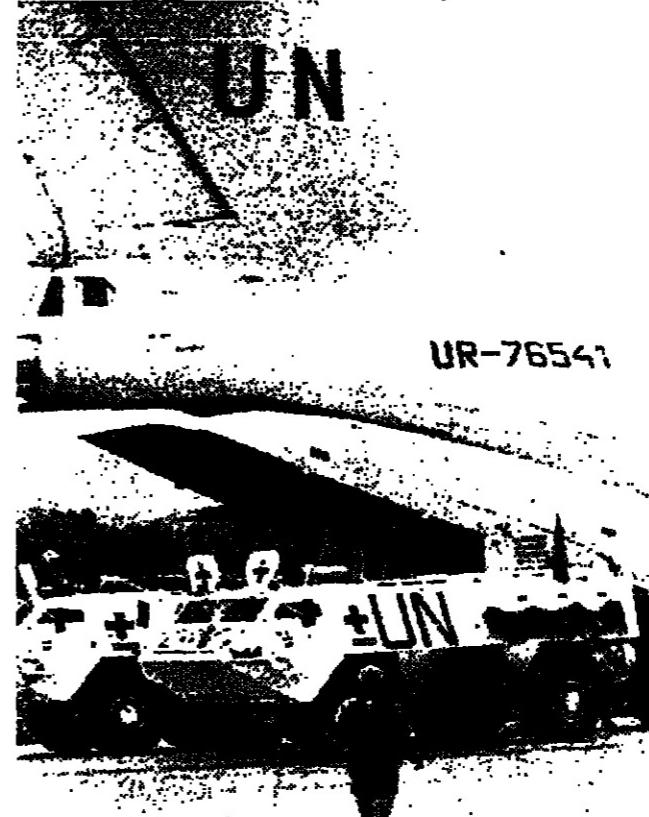
The town and the whole area had a lot of artillery and mortar fire" said U.N. spokesman Major Dacre Holloway. The town took between 40 and 50 hits in just 30 minutes late Thursday night, he added.

Sarajevo Radio said one person was killed and nine were wounded in the shelling by Bosnian Serb forces. The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported four children wounded in the area by Muslim shelling.

Another spokesman, Major Rob Annink, said the Muslim held town of Travnik, in central Bosnia, was hit by 27 artillery rounds Thursday, killing at least one civilian.

Nearby Zenica, also held by the Muslim-led Bosnian government, was hit by 20 shells, causing an unspecified number of casualties.

The aim is to persuade the



United Nations armoured vehicles stand next to a UNPROFOR Lockheed C-130 cargo plane which landed safely at Tuzla Airport, after a serious shelling incident on May 17 (AFP photo)

Bosnian factions to stop fighting and accept partition giving Serbs control of 49 per cent of the country and Muslims and Croats the rest.

The so-called "contact group," which comprised officials of the United States, the European Union and Russia, is due to hold new talks with the Bosnian factions next week and the official said all sides were expected to attend.

In Paris, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, responding to a mounting campaign in France in favour of the Bosnian Muslims, said an end to an arms embargo in Bosnia could destroy the Muslims or lead to a modern-day "hundred years' war" like that waged between England and France in the 14th and 15th centuries.

"In lifting the arms embargo for the benefit of the Bosnian Muslims, I have long feared that we would speed their defeat or start a true 'hundred years' war,' with its procession of dead, maimed, refugees and stubborn hatred," he wrote in *Le Monde*.

The meeting was to flesh out proposals by the foreign ministers of the major powers who agreed last Saturday in Geneva to join in a last-ditch peace effort. They called for a four-month truce and new negotiations between the parties.

Another foreign minister's meeting has been announced for June 13, preceded by peace talks in France among the factions.

A senior U.S. official acknowledged that it was unclear if Serbs and Muslims were ready for a negotiated settlement of casualties.

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Sports

Brilliant AC Milan humiliate Barcelona in European Cup

ATHENS (AFP) — AC Milan won the European Champions Cup for the third time in six years with a stunning 4-0 triumph over Barcelona here late Wednesday.

The Spanish champions were ruthlessly exposed by a Milan performance that was brilliantly orchestrated by their Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic.

The Montenegrin carved the Barcelona defence apart to create the crucial opening goal for Daniele Massaro, had a hand in Massaro's second just before the break and then scored a stunning third two minutes after the restart.

After robbing Josep Guardiola on the right touchline, Savicevic spotted Andoni Zubizarreta off his line and audaciously lobbed him from the corner of the penalty area to kill the match as a contest.

Marcel Desailly, a member of the Olympique Marseille team that beat Milan 1-0 in last year's final, rounded off a superb performance by breaking through the Spaniards' back four in the 58th minute and placing a right foot wide of Zubizarreta.

Desailly, who marked Marco Van Basten out of last year's final, was again the key to victory with his work at the heart of the Milan midfield.

By smothering their opponents in the middle of the park Fabio Capello's side cut off the supply to Barcelona's forwards Hristo Stoichkov and Romario.

The deadly duo barely threatened all night despite the absence of Milan's international central defenders Franco

Baresi and Alessandro Costacurta, both ruled out of the match by suspension.

Barcelona's spectacular performances in getting to the final had led many to anticipate wave after wave of Catalan raids on the Milanese goal.

But it was the Italians who took a grip on the game right from the start — Savicevic,

who won a European Cup medal with Red Star Belgrade in 1991, skipping past Miguel Angel Nadal as early as the sixth minute.

Stoichkov created Barcelona's only early chance with a long range shot in the seventh minute but two minutes later Milan were unlucky not to go ahead. Christian Panucci's headed goal was ruled out because Daniele Massaro was judged to be interfering with play in an offside position.

Milan's enterprise finally bore fruit in the 22nd minute when Guardiola failed to clear on the left, giving Savicevic the chance to break into the box.

The montenegrin waltzed past Nadal once more and flicked the ball across goal to give Massaro an easy tap-in at the far post.

Massaro, who missed a handful of chances in last year's final, struck his second in first half injury time — this time with a left foot drive from just behind the penalty spot at the end of a sweeping move out of defence.

Zvonimir Boban swept the ball wide to Roberto Donadoni on the left flank. His busy run took him round the back of the defence and with the Barcelona defenders looking for Savicevic, his pass with the

outside of the foot perfectly picked out Massaro.

Barcelona looked willing for a second-half battle but Guardiola's blunder and Savicevic's brilliant strike proved a knock-out punch.

From then on they were a feeble shadow of their normal selves and they could easily have become the first side to lose a European Cup final by five goals.

Just seconds before Desailly's goal, Savicevic's stabbed shot came back off the inside of the post and the Barcelona defence was still trying to regain its composure when the Frenchman burst through to score.

Milan's fifth European Cup triumph followed previous victories in Europe's premier competition in 1963, 1969, 1989 and 1990.

It was only the third time any team had won the final by four goals. The last time it happened was in 1989 when Milan beat Steaua Bucharest 4-0.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Geagea linked to church bombing

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's chief prosecutor accused former warlord Samir Geagea Friday of links to a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers, judicial sources said. They said prosecutor Munif Oweidat decided to charge Dr. Geagea after reading details of his questioning by investigating Judge Joseph Freiha. Dr. Geagea, the chief of the banned Lebanese Forces (LF) group, is held for alleged links to the 1990 assassination of a Christian rival. About 15 other LF members, including Dr. Geagea's right hand man Fouad Malek, are held in connection with the Feb. 27 bombing and murder of Christian leader Dani Chamoun, wife and two sons. The Lebanese government banned the LF, the largest Christian militia during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, in March after arresting Mr. Malek and a number of followers in connection with the church blast. Dr. Geagea was arrested in April after investigations into the bombing led to alleged links between him and the murder of the Chamouns. He has vehemently denied links to either crime.

3 held in U.S over tourist shooting

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (R) — Three men matching the description of the suspects who brutally gunned down a German couple in the southern California mountains were detained for questioning by state police Thursday night, officials said. The men were stopped by highway patrol troopers outside Bakersfield, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of the popular hiking area where Monday's attack left an elderly woman dead and her husband critically wounded, said deputy Mark Lohman of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. "We're following up on one of many leads. We have not made any arrests. They are detained for questioning," Deputy Lohman said. He said the three men and the green car they were driving bore similarities to descriptions released by authorities earlier Thursday at a news conference in Riverside. In their most detailed recounting of the attack yet, officials said the two tourists were ambushed at a scenic roadside lookout near the town of Idyllwild in the San Bernardino Mountains southeast of Los Angeles.

Omar Sharif hospitalised

ANTIBES, France (AFP) — Egyptian-born film actor Omar Sharif, 62, was taken to hospital here after suffering heart failure but was not in a serious condition, hospital officials said Friday. Sharif fell ill in his hotel room at the end of a bridge tournament in Juan-Les-Pins on the French Riviera Thursday. He is a leading player on the international bridge circuit. The hospital said he had not lost consciousness and that there was nothing serious about his condition. Doctors said he might be discharged later Friday. Sharif starred in such films as Doctor Zhivago and Funny Girl.

Former Japan foreign minister dies

TOKYO (AFP) — Former Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito, a veteran member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), died of pneumonia at his Tokyo home Friday morning, party officials said. He was 80. The former lower house legislator was seen as a symbol of political reformists at the LDP, which lost the majority in lower house general elections last year following a series of financial scandals. He will also be remembered for pursuing friendship between Japan and China. Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata expressed his condolences, describing him as a "selfless patriot." Mr. Ito served as chief cabinet secretary in 1979-1980 under then Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. After the sudden death of Mr. Ohira in June 1980, he served as acting prime minister until July 1980. He then became foreign minister in 1980-1981 under prime minister Zenko Suzuki. After Noboru Takeshita resigned as prime minister in 1982 to take responsibility for his alleged involvement in Recruit Co. stocks-for-favours scandal, LDP offered Mr. Ito the post of premier because of his clean image, but he turned it down.

Estonian premier sacks minister

MOSCOW (R) — Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar sacked his Defence Minister Indrek Kannik and asked for a vote of confidence from his party, the Estonian Foreign Ministry said. Mr. Laar, elected in the former Soviet Republic's first free elections in 1992, asked Mr. Kannik to resign after a disagreement within the cabinet. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mari-Anne Rikkens said by telephone from Tallinn. Justice Minister Kaido Kama had also said he would quit and take five other ministers with him but this had not yet happened and the centre-right coalition government was still in place, she said. An official in Mr. Laar's office said Mr. Kannik had handed in his resignation. "Kannik wanted the government to resign. He wanted a change of prime minister," Ms. Rikkens said. Mr. Laar, Mr. Kannik and Mr. Kama are all members of the Fatherland Party and the prime minister has asked for a vote of confidence in his leadership at a party meeting, probably in June. Mr. Laar won the party's immediate backing at a news conference in Tallinn Thursday. "It came out very clearly that no one supports changing the government," Ms. Rikkens said.

Oil gushes on Russian island after leak

MOSCOW (R) — A pipeline failure Friday in Russia's far eastern Sakhalin Island let 60 tonnes of oil gush out but there was no environmental harm, ITAR-TASS news agency said. The oil spilled out of the pipeline in Sakhalin's Pervomaiskoye region, a local civil defence spokesman said. Some 54 tonnes of oil was collected by military personnel dispatched to the site, TASS said.

Russian police kill gunmen, free hostages

MOSCOW (R) — Russian special forces in an armoured vehicle smashed their way into a Moscow currency exchange Thursday night killing two gunmen and freeing two women hostages. Interior Ministry crack troops waited until night before using an armoured personnel carrier to batter their way into the building on Frunze Embankment on the Moscow River to end a six-and-a-half hour siege. Three gunmen snatched the hostages after a bungled robbery attempt and in the following clash a policeman was shot dead. The gunmen later demanded \$1 million to release their captives. The Interior Ministry Omon forces first fired tear gas before charging the building after relatives of the gunmen had failed to persuade them to surrender. The third gunman was arrested. Police sources first said there were three hostages but later discovered there were only two.

U.S. may cut troops in Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives voted to withdraw up to 75,000 U.S. troops from Europe if U.S. allies there do not pay 75 per cent of the forces' costs by 1998, excluding salaries. The House wrote the proposal into \$263 billion defense authorisation bill for next year by a vote of 268 to 144. The effort to force Europe to pay the large share of the U.S. troops' cost would have to be approved by the Senate and signed by President Bill Clinton to become law. Assistant House Democratic leader David Bonior of Minnesota argued that Japan agreed to pay a large share of the cost of U.S. troops stationed in that country when the House passed a similar proposal and said the House should now put the same pressure on Europe. "We're saying it is time for European allies to pay their fair share too," he said.

Bulgarian cabinet survives vote

SOFIA (R) — The Bulgarian government narrowly survived its sixth no-confidence vote after the opposition failed to muster enough votes to topple it. Only 25 deputies voted for the non-party government, but the 96 who voted against it fell short of the 121 needed for the motion to be carried. One vote was declared invalid. The announcement of the results of the secret ballot caused uproar in the chamber.

Jacquelin Kennedy Onassis dies

NEW YORK (R) — Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, widow of President John F. Kennedy and an enduring American symbol of elegance and strength, died with her children at her side after a battle with cancer. She was 64.

She was as close to royalty as one can be in a democratic nation and was best remembered for the poignant moment when she cradled the head of the dying president in her hands after he was shot and killed on November day in Dallas 30 years ago.

A spokeswoman said the former first lady died at her New York home at 10:15 p.m. EDT (0215) after a four-month fight with lymphoma, which had raced through her body despite chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

"She was sleeping. I don't know if she was asleep or in a coma. She kind of slipped away," said the spokeswoman, Nancy Tuckerman.

She had lost one of her three children soon after birth and suffered a miscarriage and a

stillborn birth.

Her brother-in-law and friend Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968 while campaigning for the presidency.

After the tragedy of President Kennedy's murder and the death of her second husband, shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, she entered the New York publishing world and moved quietly in high social circles.

Even as she tried to lead a private life, she had often been hounded by press photographers but almost always was written about in glowing terms.

The sudden worsening in her condition came as a surprise to a nation that remained transfixed by her activities decades after she was in the public arena as first lady, personifying an era heralded as an American camelot for its vitality and style.

"She presented the best in American culture. She created a world impression second to none. She was a woman of great distinction, taste and privacy," said Oleg Cassini, designer and personal friend of many years.

Senator Edward Kennedy, her brother-in-law who visited her twice in the past two days, said in a statement that "Jackie was part of our family and part of our hearts for 40 wonderful and unforgettable years and she will never really leave us."

President Bill Clinton said that "more than any other woman of her time, she captivated our nation and the world with her intelligence, elegance and grace."

Lady Bird Johnson, widow of the president who took office after John F. Kennedy's death, said that Ms. Onassis was an "image of beauty and romance."

Doctors at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center had treated Ms. Onassis with radiation and chemotherapy.



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, shown with John F. Kennedy in a photo dated April 1963; has died of cancer complications at the age of 64 at her home in New York (AFP photo)



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis is seen here with Aristotle Onassis in a photo dated Oct. 19, 1968 (AFP photo)

Crimean parliament raises stakes in tussle with Kiev

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (Agencies) — The Crimean parliament raised the stakes in a dispute with Ukrainian authorities Friday, voting to restore a 1992 constitution loosening its ties with the rest of the former Soviet republic.

Deputies in the autonomous region voted 69-2 to reintroduce the constitution, which offers a new legal basis for relations with Ukraine, separate Crimean "citizenship" and includes a local militia. Crimean recruits would serve in the peninsula.

The measures enraged Ukrainian authorities. The country's acting prime minister said he favoured Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk imposing direct rule on Crimea.

Kiev has been locked in a battle to maintain its authority over the region, whose majority ethnic Russian population voted heavily for closer links with Moscow in a referendum in March.

Most speakers in the parliamentary debate said Ukraine was trying to impose its will on Crimea. Only a handful pleaded against adopting the constitution, warning of ethnic bloodshed as in Nagorno-Karabakh and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Meshkov was elected as Crimea's president in January on a platform of returning it to Russian control.

Tension has built up in the past week, with rumours abounding of Ukrainian troops being deployed in the region.

Mr. Kravchuk discussed Crimea's future on the telephone Thursday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Ukraine has not accused Russia of meddling in Crimean affairs but says certain forces in Moscow are encouraging Russian nationalists.

In Moscow nationalist deputy Sergei Baburin told parliament he feared Ukrainian authorities might attempt a "state coup" in Crimea. He wanted parliamentary committees to work out ways to guarantee the safety of the Crimean population.

"Crimea is part of Ukraine and Ukraine has nothing to fear," said Mr. Baburin.

Other deputies complained about Ukraine's attitude.

"In Kiev we are treated like rabble. Slavery may be only a state of mind or lifestyle, but it is not for us," said Sergei Nikulin, adviser to pro-Russian Crimean President Yuri Meshkov.

"How can we operate when some old guy in Kiev is trying to tell me how to run my own kitchen," said Deputy Natalya Grudina.

Veteran Russian nationalist Alexander Kruglov told the chamber that 8,000 Russian Cossacks were ready to flood into Crimea if Kiev took military action against it.

Only the parliament's two Communists voted against the constitution. Members of the Crimean Tatar minority, deported from Crimea to Central Asia by Josef Stalin 50 years ago, refused to vote.

In Kiev, Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilsky said he would support any move for direct presidential rule. "I am certain

parliament would back such a measure," he said.

A top adviser to Mr. Kravchuk, Mykola Mikhalkchenko, said Crimea had "crossed the line" by threatening Ukraine's borders. But he predicted there would be no bloodshed.

Crimean leaders abandoned the 1992 constitution when Mr. Kravchuk offered them broad autonomy in the initial months after Ukraine won independence from the Soviet Union.

But pro-Russian sentiment flourished as Ukraine's economy collapsed. Poverty hit Crimean pensioners hard and many yearned for the relative prosperity of post-Soviet Russia.

Crimea became a Russian possession in 1783 and stayed under Moscow's control through the Soviet era until 1954 when it was given to Ukraine as a "gift". But the transfer had little significance in the highly centralised Soviet political system.

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Mr. Mbeki, who was jailed with Mr. Mandela on Robben Island in 1964 for opposing apartheid and spent almost 25 years in prison, said he would work comfortably with Mr. Coetsee despite their history.

"I don't think that is going to be a handicap. That period is behind us and we are looking forward now," he said.

The ANC has 60 of the 90 Senate seats. The NP holds 17 with the rest divided amongst the white right-wing Freedom Front, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and the small liberal mainly-white Democratic Party.

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S. Africa's all-race Senate sworn in

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's first all-race Senate was sworn in Friday, completing the country's transition to democracy in the Cape Town parliament that saw the rise and fall of apartheid.

The ANC has 60 of the 90 Senate seats. The NP holds 17 with the rest divided amongst the white right-wing Freedom Front, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and the small liberal mainly-white Democratic Party.

Each of the nine post-apartheid provinces nominated 10 senators in proportion to the vote in provincial elections, run at the same time as the national poll from April 26 to 29.

The Senate will sit together with the National Assembly as a constitution-writing body and has special powers to block legislation or constitutional proposals that could undermine the authority of provincial governments.

Mr. Coetsee told Reuters after his unanimous election that the Senate would play an important role in drafting a permanent post-apartheid constitution.

The interests will be heavily guarded in the Senate when it comes to legislation of any kind.

"We will have to guard and protect the central (government) interests as well as the provincial interests," he said.

The senators, including former political prisoners, victims of anti-apartheid detention and torture and some former members of the previous white minority government, took their seats in the 110-year-old

chamber of the old Cape Colonial Parliament once dominated by Cecil John Rhodes.

Veteran anti-apartheid activist Christiaan Tito shared a bench with Mr. Mbeki, and former NP cabinet minister Kraai Van Niekerk, who failed to win re-election, sat beside Mr. Coetsee.

Mr. Van Niekerk was nominated to the Senate to make him eligible to serve as agriculture minister in Mr. Mandela's 27-member national unity cabinet, which includes six NP members and three Inkatha members nominated by federalist Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

One woman wore traditional Xhosa dress with beads in her hair, but most senators favoured the traditional dark suits worn by members of the former all-white Senate.

Members were sworn in by Chief Justice Michael Corlett, who last week inaugurated the 400-member legislative assembly and installed Mr. Mandela as the country's first black president.

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